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Beta testing is a crucial part of what makes the software we use daily stable and user-friendly. Let me explain how it works:

1. **What Is Beta Testing?**
   - Beta testing is the process of testing an unreleased piece of software with a portion of its intended audience.
   - It occurs during one of the final stages of the software development lifecycle (SDLC), often before a public release.
   - The goal is to ensure that the software functions well in real-world scenarios.
2. **Who Participates in Beta Testing?**
   - Beta testers can be a sample of prospective users or even the general public.
   - If the program's intended audience is small, a company might hire a beta testing agency to gather feedback.
   - For apps with millions of expected users, a public beta test allows interested individuals to opt in and try out new features.
3. **What Happens During Beta Testing?**
   - Testers use the software as they would in real life, creating documents, performing tasks, and exploring features.
   - They provide valuable feedback on potential improvements, common bugs, and performance.
   - Feedback can be collected automatically (through crash reports and internal statistics) or manually (via surveys and interviews).
4. **Benefits of Beta Testing:**
   - Early access to new features before the public release.
   - Identifying and fixing issues, ensuring stability.
   - Shaping the software's behavior and planning for future releases.
5. **Examples of Public Beta Testing:**
   - Google Play offers beta testing for apps like Google Chrome.
   - Apple provides beta access programs for iOS, macOS, and watchOS.

Remember, beta testing bridges the gap between development and real-world usage, making software better for everyone! □□

Learn more about beta testing on How-To Geek [1] and GeeksforGeeks [2].

Source(s)

1. What Is Beta Testing? - How-To Geek
2. Beta Testing - Software Testing - GeeksforGeeks
3. Beta Testing: 6 Steps for a Successful Beta Testing Phase
4. BetaTesting | Beta Testing for Apps, Websites & Tech Products